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COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION
Fourteenth session
30 March-16 April 1992

PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND PROGRAMME OF WORK

1. Opening of the session.
2. Appointment of new members.
3. Election of officers.
4. Adoption of the agenda and programme of work.
5. Statement by the Chairman.
6. General debate and consideration of substantive questions.
7. Preparation and adoption of the report of the Committee to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session.

Annotations

30 March 1992

1. Opening of the session

The session will be opened by the Chairman of the Committee on Information.

2. Appointment of new members

In accordance with General Assembly decision 46/423 of 11 December 1991, Burkina Faso will be appointed as a member of the Committee on Information.

3. Election of officers

A communication has been received by the Secretariat to the effect that the position of a Vice-Chairman representing the Eastern European Group of States has been vacated. As a result, the Committee will have to elect a Vice-Chairman for the unexpired term of the Bureau, in accordance with the agreement reached at the organizational session of the Committee held in 1980 that stipulated that the principle of geographical rotation was to be applied to all officers of the Committee. 1/

4. Adoption of the agenda

The provisional agenda has been prepared on the basis of consultations among the members of the Bureau.

5. Statement by the Chairman

The Chairman will address the Committee at its opening meeting.

31 March-9 April 1992

6. General debate and consideration of substantive questions 2/

- (a) Promotion of the establishment of a new, more just and more effective world information and communication order intended to strengthen peace and international understanding and based on the free circulation and wider and better balanced dissemination of information.
- (b) Continuation of the examination of United Nations public information policies and activities, in the light of the evolution of international relations, and of the need to establish the new international economic order as well as the new world information and communication order.

Consideration of sub-items under this agenda item will include the following written reports:

- (i) Report of the Secretary-General on ways of ensuring a qualitative balance among United Nations information centres all over the world with respect to the discharge of their responsibilities, budget allocations for such centres, the deployment of resources, and services of specialists in the field of information; and

Report of the Secretary-General on the budget of each United Nations information centre, including detailed information on the level of assistance being provided by the host countries;
- (ii) Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of a system-wide information programme for the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development;

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(iii) Report of the Secretary-General based on observations and suggestions submitted by Member States, on ways and means of furthering the development of communication infrastructures in developing countries, with a view to consolidating recent experience in the field of international cooperation aimed at enabling the developing countries to develop their own information and communication capacities, freely and independently.

(c) Evaluation and follow-up of the efforts made and the progress achieved by the United Nations system in the field of information and communications.

Report on the activities of the Joint United Nations Information Committee.

10-16 April 1992

7. Preparation and adoption of the report of the Committee on Information to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session.

Notes

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 21 (A/35/21), para. 8 (a).

2/ The wording of paragraphs 6 (a), (b) and (c) is based on General Assembly resolution 34/182 of 18 December 1979.



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30 March-16 April 1992

SUBSTANTIVE QUESTIONS

Activities of the Joint United Nations
Information Committee (JUNIC)

Report of the Secretary-General

1. In resolution 46/73 B of 11 December 1991, the General Assembly requested "the Secretary-General to submit reports of the Joint United Nations Information Committee to the consecutive sessions of the Committee on Information". The present report, covering the activities of JUNIC during 1991, has been prepared in response to this request.

2. JUNIC held its seventeenth session in New York from 24 to 26 June 1991 under the chairmanship of Mr. Richard Lydiker, Director of Information of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). Information Directors and officials of 27 United Nations bodies, including specialized agencies and related organizations, attended. The meeting discussed a number of information issues of mutual concern, with a view to improving inter-agency cooperation and coordination in the field of public information. Its report was presented to the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) in document ACC/1991/11. Reproduced here are highlights from that report, as well as some of the follow-up action on decisions taken at the thirteenth session of JUNIC:

(a) Extensive discussions were held regarding arrangements for upcoming special events requiring inter-agency cooperation, and in particular the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED). JUNIC made a number of decisions on issues related to the Conference, including a Source Book for Media, journalists' tours, assistance to radio journalists, acquisition of new photographic materials, acquisition and adaptation of existing documentary programmes on environment, United Nations system exhibit, and others.

(b) During consideration of reports from the Non-Governmental Liaison Service (NGLS), JUNIC focused on the persistent problem of financing of the Service as the broad-based support for its activities had not been accompanied by a level of contributions sufficient to enable NGLS to maintain its core programme and budget. Following the JUNIC session, this issue was discussed at several meetings of NGLS sponsors, but the results have not been conclusive so far. A progress report is expected at the next JUNIC session.

(c) At its seventeenth session, JUNIC also decided that the task of serving as the NGLS' lead agency should rotate among the Service's contributing agencies for a two-year term and the United Nations Children's Fund subsequently assumed this responsibility, with the understanding that the Department of Public Information would continue to provide support services.

(d) JUNIC also discussed the persistent financial problems of Development Forum, the only system-wide publication on development and social issues. It was noted that financial support for this valuable publication was dwindling and unless a solution was found soon, Development Forum might have to cease publication. JUNIC took note of proposals to improve the content and format of Development Forum, as well as proposals to increase contributions from JUNIC members, advertisements and other fund-raising activities. A progress report is expected at the next JUNIC session.

(e) With regard to the participation of the United Nations system in international exhibits, JUNIC reviewed progress on the arrangements for the 1992 Genoa and Seville exhibits, and recommended, in principle, joint United Nations participation in the 1993 Taejon International Exposition in the Republic of Korea. ACC, at its session held in October 1991, approved the JUNIC recommendation for joint United Nations system participation in the Taejon Exposition, subject to compliance with guidelines for joint participation by the United Nations system in international expositions. The United Nations Department of Public Information will act as lead agency.

(f) Regarding inter-agency cooperation in audiovisual productions, JUNIC discussed matters pertaining to several issues of interest to participating organizations, including the Agenda for a Small Planet - IV television series, the Azimuths monthly TV magazine, as well as joint participation by the members of JUNIC in international film festivals and video markets.

(g) JUNIC also discussed the ways and means of strengthening the use of computer technology in the field of information within the common system and decided to organize a workshop on the applications of computer technology in the field of public information. The workshop, organized by FAO, was held at the headquarters of the International Meteorological Organization in London from 11 to 13 February 1992. It provided a welcome opportunity for the information managers to discuss technological innovations in the computer field which has great potential for possible applications within the United Nations system.

3. The eighteenth session of JUNIC is scheduled to take place from 7 to 9 July 1992 at FAO headquarters in Rome. JUNIC is expected to follow up on a number of activities initiated last year. According to the preliminary agenda, it is to review a variety of issues relating to inter-agency cooperation in the field of information and to make decisions on, inter alia, the 1992/93 work programme and future financing arrangements for NGLS as well as the future of Development Forum. JUNIC will also review arrangements for the promotion of special events of interest to the members, such as the International Conference on Nutrition (1992), World Conference on Human Rights (1993) and the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations (1995).

4. At the eighteenth session, JUNIC is also expected to make a decision regarding its chairmanship for the next biennium (1993-1994).



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30 March-16 April 1992

SUBSTANTIVE QUESTIONS

Implementation of a system-wide information programme for the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development

Report of the Secretary-General

Introduction

1. In resolution 46/73 B of 11 December 1991, the General Assembly, inter alia, requested the Secretary-General to report to the Committee on Information at its fourteenth session on the implementation of a system-wide information programme for the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED). This report has been prepared in response to that request.
2. A system-wide information programme for UNCED was proposed by the Department of Public Information (DPI) to the Joint United Nations Information Committee (JUNIC) at its seventeenth session, held in June 1991. By this proposal, the "Core" information programme in paragraphs 17 and 18 of document A/C.5/44/54 was to be supplemented with additional inter-agency projects in support of UNCED.
- "Core" information programme
3. The "core" information programme for UNCED was approved by the General Assembly as part of the overall budget for UNCED, and is currently being carried out by DPI, in cooperation with the UNCED Secretariat and in close coordination with agencies and programmes of the United Nations system. In addition, some information products are being funded totally from the regular DPI budget, or from that budget in combination with funds from the UNCED

information budget. The core programme, along with the outputs from DPI's regular programme, contains the elements listed below. A report on the status of each item is given.

(a) A basic informational brochure on UNCED has been issued in the six official languages and Portuguese. More than 100,000 copies have been distributed.

(b) Two issues of a Conference newsletter, Earth Summit News, were published and distributed by the UNCED Secretariat in English and French. A number of excellent newsletters about UNCED are being published by non-governmental organizations; therefore to avoid duplication, a decision was made by the UNCED secretariat to discontinue Earth Summit News and reallocate the remaining resources to other UNCED information programmes.

(c) A special edition of Notes for Speakers, a DPI publication which gives information on major issues in a style suitable for general audiences, was devoted solely to the issues of environment and development. English, French and Spanish editions were published. Discussions are being held concerning the production of an Arabic edition.

(d) A leaflet for primary school students on the issue of environment and development was produced in August 1991, in English, French, Portuguese and Spanish.

(e) DPI and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) are providing support to the "Developing Stories" series being produced by the BBC and the Television Trust for the Environment, focusing on environment and development from a third world perspective. From this, DPI will obtain footage for use in United Nations in Action and a half-hour edited version packaged for United Nations distribution.

(f) DPI is working with World Television News, which will produce six short pieces, each on a major subject area of the Conference, to send to broadcasters as background for their UNCED coverage.

(g) DPI has provided support to North South Productions (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) for a series of films on environment and development for Channel 4. As part of this co-production arrangement, North South has produced an educational video and two promotional television spots, and will provide footage for additional use by the United Nations.

(h) A 15-minute educational video and teaching guide on environment and development, aimed at secondary school students, has been produced in English, French, Portuguese and Spanish as part of the DPI series, About the United Nations. This will be available in February 1992 as a sales item and for distribution to the United Nations information centres.

(i) An information kit, primarily for journalists attending UNCED, will be prepared in May 1992 in English, French and Portuguese, and, subject to funding, possibly in Spanish.

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(j) A Conference poster, to be printed in all official languages and Portuguese, is being produced by DPI. It will receive wide distribution through United Nations information centres and other organizations of the United Nations system.

(k) A round table to brief journalists on the main issues of UNCED will be held in Rio de Janeiro immediately prior to the opening of the Conference. Funding will be provided for travel and per diem of selected journalists from developing countries who might otherwise be unable to participate.

(l) Provision has been made for travel and production costs of eight segments of United Nations in Action, the three-minute television feature which is shown worldwide on CNN's "World Report", and is also distributed by DPI to other outlets. In fact, more than eight segments have already been produced on UNCED topics, and several more will be done prior to the Conference.

(m) A series of 15- and 30-second television "spots" (public service announcements) are in production, with both brief substantive themes and celebrity statements in support of UNCED. These will be done in all official languages and in Portuguese.

(n) A series of 15-minute radio documentaries, focusing on the United Nations system and sustainable development, is being prepared. All script treatments have been completed, and a recording mission is being undertaken in January and February 1992, with support from the United Nations Development Programme field offices. The documentaries are expected to be released in April/May 1992, in numerous languages, for distribution through United Nations Radio.

(o) Funds are being made available to selected United Nations information centres for programming and special events tied to UNCED. In many cases, these programmes will include field work of various organizations in the system.

Additional inter-agency projects in support of UNCED

4. A number of additional projects have been or are being undertaken within the framework of JUNIC.

(a) UNCED logo

DPI worked with the UNCED secretariat jointly to develop the logo for UNCED. This has been shared with members of JUNIC, many of whom have incorporated the logo into their visual designs for UNCED-related products.

(b) United Nations system exhibit at UNCED

A major United Nations system exhibit is planned for Rio Centro, the venue of UNCED. If feasible, this will be adapted to a travelling exhibit format following the Conference, and will be shown in various locations

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throughout the world. To date, 10 agencies and programmes have contributed to this exhibit, which is currently being designed.

(c) Feature articles - "Earth Summit In Focus"

Utilizing the format of DPI's United Nations Focus series, a series of four-page feature articles devoted to the subject-matter of UNCED is being written and widely distributed in English, French, Spanish and occasionally Portuguese. These give particular attention to the United Nations system's technical assistance activities for environmentally sustainable development, as well as the linkages between environment and development issues. Thus far 3 articles have been issued; 10 more are in editing or production and will be issued shortly.

(d) Source book for media

A media source book was proposed for distribution to journalists at UNCED. In addition to providing information on themes, issues and preparations for the Conference, it would provide a brief guide to the work of United Nations agencies and programmes in the area of sustainable development. The source book would be aimed at programmers/editors/writers who need substantive information for radio, television or print production or coverage. The source book would also give contact information for individuals in the United Nations system working on environment and development issues and would include details of other United Nations information products. It would thus be of continuing use to journalists after UNCED itself has ended.

Preparatory work for this project has been started by DPI; lists of United Nations contact people and media outlets are being compiled. Publication of the Source Book will depend upon financial support from the United Nations system.

(e) The Non-Governmental Liaison Service (NGLS)

NGLS is an inter-agency project supported by JUNIC members. UNCED information activities have been among the Service's major projects recently. It is publishing, on a regular basis, the E and D File, a newsletter for non-governmental organizations on UNCED issues. Among its other publications is Women and the Environment. NGLS is carrying out a series of in-depth briefings for non-governmental organizations at meetings of the UNCED Preparatory Committee.

(f) Development Forum

Development Forum, which is published by DPI for JUNIC, has featured a number of articles on UNCED. The current issue is a special edition containing extended coverage of the preparations for the Conference.

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DPI coverage of UNCED

5. In addition to the programmes noted above, DPI has given extensive coverage, in its regular operations and periodic publications, to the preparations for UNCED. Coverage has been given, via press releases, radio and television, to meetings of the Preparatory Committee for UNCED and to related events, such as press conferences at Headquarters by Mr. Maurice Strong, Secretary-General of UNCED. Mr. Strong has also been featured on World Chronicle, the United Nation television interview programme. Articles on UNCED have appeared in the quarterly publication UN Chronicle.

6. DPI will have an extensive coverage and press servicing operation at UNCED. Press releases will be issued in English, French, Portuguese and, if funding is available, in Spanish. Extensive radio and television coverage of the proceedings will be made. Press briefings and conferences will be arranged. Press accreditation, photography, document distribution and NGO liaison will also be provided by the DPI team. These arrangements are being closely coordinated with agencies and programmes of the United Nations system which wish to be able to deal with the press during UNCED, and which will utilize information sent from the Conference by the DPI coverage staff.



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COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION
Fourteenth session
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SUBSTANTIVE QUESTIONS

United Nations information centres in 1991: allocation of resources and host government assistance

Report of the Secretary-General

Introduction

1. In paragraph 1 (j) of resolution 46/73 B of 11 December 1991, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General "to study ways of ensuring a qualitative balance among United Nations information centres all over the world with respect to the discharge of their responsibilities, budget allocations for such centres, the deployment of resources, and services of specialists in the field of information", and to report to the Committee on Information at its fourteenth session.

2. In paragraph 1 (k) of the same resolution, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General "to report to the Committee on Information at all sessions of the Committee on the budget of each of the United Nations information centres, including detailed information on the level of assistance being provided by the host countries".

3. The present report is submitted to the Committee on Information in response to paragraphs 1 (j) and (k), which are interrelated. It outlines continuing action taken by the Department of Public Information (DPI) since the Committee's 1991 session with regard to: (a) the enhancement and strengthening of the United Nations information centres within the limited available resources; (b) the funding provided for each centre from the regular United Nations budget in 1991; and (c) the extent of host government contributions received for 1991.

4. The report does not deal with the United Nations information services in Geneva and Vienna or the headquarters of the four regional commissions, although they serve as information centres in the country of location and provide services to other countries of the region. United Nations information services in Geneva and Vienna have their own budgets and posts which are under the direct management and supervision of DPI. The other four operate within the administrative and budgetary jurisdiction of the regional commissions although one Professional post (P-3) in each commission is provided by the Department (see table 3).

5. The report also highlights aspects of cooperation and support needed from all host Governments to ensure that sufficient funds are available on an equitable basis for all United Nations information centres.

Functions performed by information centres

6. The United Nations information centres are one of the most important means for disseminating information about the United Nations and for creating greater public understanding of, and support for, the Organization. They perform a wide range of promotional and information services tailored to the local interest of the media and the target audience, including newsletters and press releases in national languages.

7. The activities of United Nations information centres are in keeping with the guidelines provided by the Committee on Information and approved by the General Assembly in resolution 42/162 A of 8 December 1987, paragraph 1, recommendation (36). By that resolution, the General Assembly requested, inter alia, that the United Nations information centres continue:

(a) To assist press and information media in their respective countries in accordance with the mandates given by the General Assembly;

(b) To intensify direct and systematic communication exchange with local information and educational institutions and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in a mutually beneficial way;

(c) To ensure open and unhindered access by all people to all United Nations information centres and to all materials distributed through them;

(d) To establish close coordination, taking into account the functional autonomy of United Nations information centres, with other field offices of the United Nations system, particularly those of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), in order to avoid duplication of work.

8. The United Nations information centres mobilize national information media, government agencies and NGOs, academic institutions and special interest groups in observing international days, years and decades mandated by the General Assembly.

9. An important aspect of United Nations information centre activities is to provide Headquarters with feedback on national media coverage and public comments pertaining to the activities of the Secretary-General, to the United Nations in general and to other important issues that have a bearing on the work of the Organization.

10. Furthermore, the United Nations information centres service the Secretary-General, particularly during visits to their region.

11. The United Nations information centres also act as the focal point for the United Nations system and undertake a wide range of ad hoc assignments in countries without local UNDP offices.

12. Efforts to work closely in the field with other members of the United Nations family have produced visible impact not only in portraying a unified image of the United Nations but also in pooling resources and sharing common services. This cooperation continues to be pursued both directly, with each member of the United Nations family, and through the Joint United Nations Information Committee (JUNIC). At the seventeenth session of JUNIC, held in June 1991, all members praised the outstanding efforts made by the United Nations information centres and expressed appreciation for work done on their behalf.

13. At the seventeenth session, JUNIC also decided that members requiring specific services reserve funds in their respective budgets to cover the costs incurred by United Nations information centres. The Department has continued consultations with organizations concerned with a view to obtaining the essential reimbursement.

14. The close working relationship between United Nations information centres and the field offices of UNDP continues to be maintained and will be strengthened. The Secretary-General has already initiated a process of identifying further means of integrating information components at a number of duty stations where UNDP maintains a strong representation with the purpose of minimizing operational cost while supporting and enhancing the information function. A significant indication of the closer partnership is that UNDP resident representatives already serve concurrently as Directors of 21 United Nations information centres, while others serve as Acting Directors/Officers-in-Charge during absences and pending appointments of full-time Directors.

15. Moreover, as a result of rapid developments in the geopolitical priorities of the international community, United Nations information centres are often called upon to assist in the increasing peacemaking and peace-keeping activities of the United Nations and to provide logistical and other support.

Qualitative strengthening of United Nations
information centres during 1991

16. The Department's special efforts to enhance a qualitative balance among the information centres during 1991 included regional meetings of United Nations information centre Directors, special briefing programmes for key local staff, computer and other training for staff and improvement of the electronic communications capabilities of the centres.

17. Two regional meetings were held for United Nations information centre Directors - in Africa and in Europe. The meeting of the Directors of centres in Africa was held at Tunis in June 1991 with the active support of the Government of Tunisia. The meeting of Directors of the centres in Europe was held at Brussels in September 1991 with the financial support of the Government of Belgium and logistical support provided by the European Community.

18. A number of briefing programmes were organized during the year for key local staff of United Nations information centres. The Information Assistants from 10 centres world wide were brought to Headquarters in November - from Santa Fe de Bogota, Brussels, Buenos Aires, Bujumbura, Jakarta, Lusaka, Manama, Prague, Rio de Janeiro and Tripoli; the Reference Assistants from United Nations information centres in the Americas met at Santiago in March; the Administrative Assistant from Madrid, a self-accounting Centre, was briefed in New York; and the Administrative Secretary from Dar es Salaam participated in a local training course.

19. The Department also arranged for at least 93 staff of 36 United Nations information centres to receive computer training at their duty station during 1991, at an additional total cost of \$27,615, covered by the Office of Human Resources Management. Of the 32 participants, 15 were from centres in Africa, 15 from 5 centres in the Americas, 19 from 7 centres in Asia and the Pacific and 22 from 9 centres in Europe.

20. Similar briefing programmes are envisaged for the 1992-1993 biennium, including computer training for another 200 centre staff members.

21. The provision of electronic data processing equipment continued to be a priority of the Department within the context of available financial resources. During 1991, an additional 23 United Nations information centres were provided with computers for the first time: Accra, Brazzaville, Bucharest, Cairo, Colombo, Dakar, Dar es Salaam, Dhaka, Harare, Islamabad, Khartoum, Lagos, Lusaka, Managua, Maseru, Moscow, Ouagadougou, Prague, Rabat, Tripoli, Tunis, Yaoundé and Yangoon.

22. There are now only 12 United Nations information centres that are not equipped with computers and provisions for them will be made as funds become available during the 1992-1993 biennium.

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23. Electronic mail was installed and became operational in Dakar and Moscow and a total of 24 centres had this service by the end of 1991. Further action was initiated to complete electronic mail linkage with Cairo, Islamabad, New Delhi, Panama City, Port of Spain and Prague during the early months of 1992.

24. Directors of other United Nations information centres regularly check on the local availability of access to public international data networks and on local telecommunications conditions in order to ensure the establishment of electronic mail connections as soon as technologically feasible.

25. Besides provision of computers and electronic mail linkage, 41 United Nations information centres have their own fully operational facsimile machines.

26. The Department has also continued its efforts to establish the National Officer (Information) category for all United Nations information centres where appropriate.

Resources allocated to United Nations information
centres in the regular budget

27. A breakdown of the resources allocated by DPI to individual centres during 1991 in terms of staff posts and operational costs is provided in table 2.

28. The table does not include amounts of salaries and staff costs for individual centres as these fall within the established posts and common staff costs for the United Nations Secretariat as a whole. Accordingly, the Department is provided with a certain number of Professional and local-level posts that have been approved in the regular budget for DPI and for the network of United Nations information centres (see tables 4 and 5).

29. For the 1990-1991 biennium, a total of 42 Professional (9 at the D-1 level, 20 at P-5 and 13 at P-4) and 265 local-level posts for the United Nations information centres were approved by the General Assembly. Table 2 provides a breakdown of allocations of regular budget posts to individual centres. It does not include 1 P-5 and 5 local-level posts for the Centre in Windhoek that will be established in 1992. The pro rata regular budget appropriations for posts in the 61 United Nations information centres indicated in table 2 was approximately \$9 million for 1991.

30. Regarding local-level posts, during the last biennium the Department was faced with the mandated retrenchment exercise. A total of 30 posts had to be abolished by the end of 1991 in order to comply with the budget target of 260. Every effort was made to ensure that an equitable regional balance was maintained in the retrenchment exercise, as follows:

Table 1

	Africa	Americas	Asia	Europe	Total
Posts at January 1990	104	52	66	68	290
Abolished end-1991	11	5	7	7	30
Reduction in percentage	10.6	9.6	10.6	10.3	10.3
Posts at January 1992*	98	47	59	61	265
Number of centres*	23	12	14	13	62

* Figures for the 1992-1993 biennium include the additional five local-level posts that were approved by the General Assembly for the new information centre at Windhoek.

31. Essential operating costs for the United Nations information centres remain extremely limited and almost entirely committed to basic needs. The Department has been making, and continues to make, every effort to allocate available resources among the United Nations information centres in developed and developing countries in as equitable a manner as possible.

32. Particular attention should be given to the fact that the operating costs for every United Nations information centre, even those for which host government financial support is anticipated, have to be provided initially from the Department's regular budget. In due course, regular budget expenditures can be offset, as appropriate, only when a host Government's annual contribution is received and credited at United Nations Headquarters. However, there is no fixed timetable for such recovery of expenditures. Further, the level of host government contributions fluctuates and cannot be projected with reliable accuracy.

33. The resulting uncertainties in the receipt of extrabudgetary resources mean that the Department is being required to absorb an increasing amount of centres' expenditures within the regular budget funding, the bulk of which is primarily for maintenance and upkeep of a centre, e.g., rental and maintenance of premises, utilities, communications, maintenance of equipment, local transportation, stationery and office supplies, library supplies, office and electronic equipment, freight and handling charges for shipment of equipment and supplies, etc.

34. The limited, even shrinking, resources available to the Department seriously curtail the ability of the United Nations information centres to expand their public information activities. The centres have to rely increasingly on the active support and cooperation of national Governments,

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national United Nations associations and other NGOs, educational institutions and other local interest groups to assist in the promotion of wider public awareness and understanding of the United Nations.

35. Such local support has been forthcoming in many instances. Some United Nations information centre Directors, for example, are able to increase their participation in special events because local organizations arranging those events are prepared to cover all travel and related costs. Moreover, a number of United Nations information centres have been able to adapt and produce more United Nations information material in national languages for local dissemination with the financial and other practical support of Governments and local institutions.

Host government support for United Nations information centres

36. The breakdown of host government support provided to United Nations information centres in 1991 is contained in table 2.

37. It should be noted that during the early years of the Organization United Nations information centres were financed completely out of the United Nations regular budget, supplemented in some cases by voluntary host government support of either rent-free office premises or some financial support, or both. Centres were opened on the basis of informal understandings with host Governments and there were no signed agreements.

38. Following the adoption of General Assembly resolution 1405 (XIV) of 1 December 1959, in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General "to enlist the cooperation of the Member States concerned in providing all possible facilities for the establishment" of new centres, the Department began to ask Member States requesting the establishment of a centre to indicate the extent of their support in written agreements signed between the United Nations and the host Government.

39. As indicated above, ad hoc support received from host Governments has varied over the years. Although in recent years the Department has been successful in obtaining increased financial support from some host Governments, the level of funds provided by other Governments has either remained the same or even decreased in some cases. Further, a number of host Governments continue to be in arrears of their contributions by two or more years, while a few have ceased providing financial support altogether.

40. For 1991, 17 Governments provided rent-free office premises, 8 provided cash contributions only and 8 provided both rent-free premises and a cash contribution. Twenty Governments did not provide any support, and 13 were in arrears in providing the anticipated cash contributions.

41. Consequently, the overall situation pertaining to host government support for United Nations information centres has become very critical. The Department is being called upon to absorb an increasing amount of unreceived extrabudgetary resources for operational purposes. It is estimated that in 1991 the Department had to absorb over \$116,000 in operational costs, at the expense of other centres.

42. An important aspect of host government financial contributions relates to "extrabudgetary posts". As seen from table 2, there are at least 26 posts in nine United Nations information centres (including one P-5 and one P-4) which are to be funded entirely by host Governments. In most cases, the funding received in 1991 was adequate for the purpose. In others, however, there were insufficient or no government funds to cover at least 11 extrabudgetary posts, including one at the P-4 level. During 1991, the United Nations regular budget had to absorb the equivalent of \$229,500 in salaries and staff costs.

Ensuring a balance among the centres

43. Despite the overwhelming strains placed on the Department's regular budget, every effort has been made in 1991 to maintain an equitable balance among the centres in the allocation of available resources, including funds for training of staff. This practice will continue during the current biennium.

44. The Department's efforts to maintain a qualitative balance among the centres in developed and developing countries goes beyond allocation of funds. It will be recalled that at the thirteenth session of the Committee on Information, some members of the Committee had expressed the view that very few staff members from developing countries had ever been appointed directors of centres in the developed countries. In fact, nationals of developing countries are currently serving as directors of 7 of 13 centres and United Nations information services in developed countries, at Brussels, Lisbon, Madrid, Paris, Sydney, Tokyo and Geneva. Also, nationals of developed countries serve as directors at Accra and Santa Fe de Bogota.

45. Many centres continue to be given invaluable assistance by certain host Governments, which provide practical support in cash and/or in kind. Host Governments that do not provide support of any kind are urged to do so. Also, those Governments that are in arrears in providing their contribution need to ensure that they are up to date in their payments and obligations, especially as non-payment of indicated support adversely affects the work of other information centres. Further, all contributions must be realistic in terms of local costs and conditions and take into account exchange rate fluctuations.

46. The Department also invites the Committee on Information to consider what measures should be taken when there is no host government support, and when such support is inadequate for agreed purposes.

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47. Experience has shown that in certain cases, despite written commitments, expected financial resources for extrabudgetary posts and other United Nations information centre expenditures are either inadequate or not forthcoming at all. Such centres would not be able to fully provide the services expected of them if host government commitments were not received in their entirety at the appropriate time. Additionally, the work of other centres would be adversely affected as operating funds would have to be redeployed to cover unreceived government funding.

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Table 2

Allocation of resources and host government assistance

31 December 1991

Centre	Established	Staffing 1991			UN Regular Budget 1991	Host Government Contribution 1991		
		Director	UN budget	Extra-budgetary		Signed agreement	Rent-free premises	Cash contribution
Accra	March 58	DPI	P-4 5 LL		22.9	no	nil	
Algiers	Sept. 63	UNDP	4 LL		23.7	yes	nil	
Ankara	March 75	UNDP	2 LL		24.8	January 75	not received since 1987	
Antananarivo	January 63	UNDP	2 LL		12.8	no	nil	
Asuncion	October 62	UNDP	2 LL		19.4	no	nil	
Athens	April 54	DPI	P-5 5 LL		104.8	no	not received	
Beirut	Sept. 62	DPI	D-1 5 LL		27.8	no	not received since 1985	
Belgrade	Nov. 50	DPI	P-5 5 LL		81.9	Sept. 63	nil	
Santa Fe de Bogota	May 54	DPI	P-4 5 LL		144.0	1955	\$60,000	
Brazzaville	June 83	DPI	P-5 5 LL		67.3	June 83	nil	
Brussels	January 75	DPI	P-5 5 LL		194.3	January 76	\$59,600	
Bucharest	June 70	UNDP	1 LL	5 LL	17.8	April 70	\$14,000 (covers 3 extra-budget posts only)	
Buenos Aires	Nov. 48	DPI	P-4 5 LL	1 LL	143.1	yes	\$92,200 (covers extra-budget post)	
Bujumbura	June 61	UNDP	5 LL		42.8	as of June 1991	\$3,800	
Cairo	April 49	DPI	P-5 6 LL		37.2	no	\$200	
Colombo	August 61	UNDP	4 LL		12.7	yes	\$700	

Table 2 (continued)

Centre	Established	Staffing 1991			UN Regular Budget 1991	Host Government Contribution 1991		
		Director	UN budget	Extra-budgetary		Signed agreement	Rent-free premises	Cash contribution
Copenhagen	Dec. 46	DPI	P-5 7 LL		Operating Costs (US\$'000)	January 89	no	\$39,100
Dakar	April 64	DPI	P-5 4 LL		27.4		no	nil
Der-az-Selsam	June 61	UNDP	4 LL		30.0	1981	yes	nil
Dhaka	August 81	UNDP	4 LL		51.5	August 81	no	\$2,800
Herere	Nov. 1982	DPI	P-5 5 LL		21.3		yes	nil
Islamabad	March 51	DPI	P-4 8 LL		36.7		no	\$7,000
Jakarta	August 85 (re-opened)	'DPI	P-5 4 LL		54.6		yes	nil Services of watchman provided
Kabul	October 59	UNDP	2 LL		8.0		no	not received since 1983
Kathmandu	April 64	UNDP	4 LL		8.4		no	not received since 1990
Khartoum	October 63	DPI	P-4 5 LL		32.9	May 63	yes	not received since 1989
Kinshasa	July 64	UNDP	5 LL		22.5		no	nil
Lagos	May 67	DPI	P-5 6 LL	2 LL	73.4	Nov. 64	yes	\$16,100 (covers 2 extra-budget posts)
La Paz	Sept. 63	UNDP	3 LL		23.6		no	nil
Lima	April 60	Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean	P-4 6 LL		90.3		no	nil
Lisbon	Nov. 77	DPI	P-5 3 LL	2 LL	70.6	Sept. 78	yes	\$84,500 (covers 2 extra-budget posts)
Lome	May 62	UNDP	4 LL		13.2		yes	nil

Table 2 (continued)

Centre	Established	Staffing 1991			UN Regular Budget 1991	Host Government Contribution 1991			
		Director	UN budget	Extra-budgetary		Operating Costs (US\$'000)	Signed agreement	Rent-free premises	Cash contribution
London	January 47	DPI	D-1, P-4 8 LL			458.8		no	nil
Lusaka	October 75	DPI	P-5 5 LL			61.0		yes	nil
Madrid	May 86	DPI	P-5 4 LL	1 LL		133.3		yes	\$52,800 (covers 1 extra-budget post)
Managua	July 84	UNDP		3 LL		30.0	April 84	no	not received since 1989
Manama	Nov. 77	DPI		P-4 3 LL		28.5		no	\$33,000 from Host Govt of Bahrain was received. Govts of Qatar and UAE not received since before 1986. The three Govts had agreed to jointly share all expenses for UNIC (staffing, premises and operational costs) on annual basis.
Manila	August 53	DPI	P-5 4 LL			64.2	1977	yes	nil
Maseru	Feb. 79	UNDP	3 LL			7.0		yes	nil
Mexico City	August 47	DPI	P-5 7 LL			96.1		no	nil
Monrovia 1/	October 50	UNDP	2 LL			0		until June 1990	nil
Moscow	April 48	DPI	D-1, P-5 8 LL			81.1		no	nil
Nairobi	August 74	DPI	D-1 4 LL			40.4	Nov. 74	no	not received
New Delhi	January 47	DPI	D-1 7 LL			49.5		no	nil
Oueguedougou	April 82	DPI	P-4 6 LL			59.9	June 82	yes	nil
Panama City	Sept. 84	UNDP	2 LL			32.2	October 82	yes	nil Services of 3 additional staff provided
Paris	March 47	DPI	D-1, P-5 8 LL			81.0		no	nil

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Table 2 (continued)

Centre	Established	Staffing 1991			UN Regular Budget 1991 Operating Costs (US\$'000)	Host Government Contribution 1991		
		Director	UN budget	Extra- budgetary		Signed agreement	Rent-free premises	Cash contribution
Port of Spain	January 62	DPI	P-4 5 LL		67.3	1961	no	\$2,800
Prague	Dec. 47	DPI	P-4 4 LL		54.7		no	nil
Rabat	Dec. 62	DPI	P-5 5 LL		59.5		no	not received since 1990
Rio de Janeiro	March 47	DPI	P-4 6 LL		74.2	1961 & 1963	yes	\$1,000
Rome	July 58	DPI	P-5 5 LL		83.4		yes	nil
San Salvador	July 60	UNDP	1 LL		23.1		no	nil
Sydney	Nov. 48	DPI	P-5 6 LL		114.2		no	nil
Tehran 2/	May 50	UNDP	2 LL		8.5		no	nil
Tokyo	April 58	DPI	D-1 7 LL		293.4		no	Nil for UNIC. Govt, however, provides annual contribution of \$100,000 for expansion of public information activities in Japan.
Tripoli	January 80	DPI		P-5 5 LL	108.7		yes	Not received. However, an amount of \$544,464 was carried over from 1990.
Tunisia	May 60	DPI	P-5 4 LL		51.4		yes	nil
Washington	October 46	DPI	D-1, P-4 7 LL		188.3		no	nil
Yangon	June 59	UNDP	5 LL		19.4		no	nil
Yaounde	October 65	DPI	P-4 6 LL	2 LL	53.8		yes	not received

1/ UNIC temporarily closed since June 1990 due to local conditions.

2/ UNIC was not functioning during period 1981 to 1989 due to prevailing local conditions. Since 1989, UNIC is undertaking very limited activities with the co-operation of the UNDP Resident Representative, who serves concurrently as Acting Director of the Centre, and other UNDP staff. Also, prior to 1981, the Government provided rent-free office premises for UNIC.

Table 3

United Nations Information Services 31 December 1991

Service	Established	DPI Regular Budget 1991		Operating Costs
		Professional posts	General Service & Local posts	
Economic Commission for Africa	April 60	P-3	Regional	Commission
Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean	March 51	P-3	Regional	Commission
Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia	April 63	P-3	Regional	Commission
Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific	Oct. 51	P-3	Regional	Commission
Geneva	Feb 47	D-1 2 P-5, 5 P-4, 4 P-2	16	\$706,200
Vienna	Sept. 84	D-1 1 P-5, 1 P-4, 1 P-3, 1 P-2	7	\$244,800

Table 4
General Assembly approved regular budget staffing establishment for DPI
31 December 1991

	1982-1983				1984-1985				1986-1987				1988-1989 ^{a/}				1990-1991			
	Prof	GSALL	Total	%	Prof	GSALL	Total	%	Prof	GSALL	Total	%	Prof	GSALL	Total	%	Prof	GSALL	Total	%
DPI Headquarters ^{b/}	163	162	316	43.0	160	163	319	42.5	160	161	319	42.5	160	166	317	47.8	160	168	317	47.8
Information Centres ^{c/}	54	328	382	82.2	55	330	385	81.3	56	330	385	81.3	45	280	305	47.8	45	280	305	48.1
Information Service, Geneva	16	19	35	4.8	16	19	35	4.7	16	18	34	4.5	13	16	29	4.5	12	16	28	4.2
Information Service, Vienna	-	-	-	-	4	7	11	1.5	6	8	13	1.7	6	7	12	1.8	5	7	12	1.8
Total	233	499	732	100.0	241	509	760	100.0	244	507	751	100.0	213	428	641	100.0	230	432	662	100.0
Number of UNICs during biennium	57				58				61				61 ^{b/}							

a/ The staffing establishment shown for 1988-89 represents the target level for 31 December 1989 approved by the General Assembly as a result of the Secretariat-wide post retrenchment exercise.

b/ Includes Headquarters staff providing management and oversight for UNIC operations which since October 1987 have been carried out by the Information Centres Division. The staffing establishment authorized for the Information Centres Division in 1990-91 comprises 22 posts (10 professional and 12 General Service). If this number (22) is added to the total number of posts assigned to UNICs/UNISs (345), the total percentage of staffing resources allocated to UNICs/UNISs would be 52.1 per cent.

c/ The 1990-1991 staffing establishment at the Professional and higher levels shown for UNICs (45) includes four posts assigned to the four information services located in the regional commissions.

Table 5

General Assembly approved regular budget appropriations for DPI in US\$'000 a/ 31 December 1991

	1982-83	%	1984-85	%	1986-87	%	1988-89	%	1990-91	%
DPI Headquarters b/	40,893.6	63.3	47,102.1	67.1	48,244.9	63.3	50,228.3	64.2	55,279.6	65.1
Information Centres	20,190.3	31.2	19,079.3	27.2	22,172.4	29.1	21,547.5	27.5	22,936.9	27.1
Information Service Geneva	3,551.1	5.5	3,316.4	4.7	4,556.5	6.0	4,869.6	6.2	4,953.0	5.8
Information Service Vienna	0.0	0.0	672.8	1.0	1,208.9	1.6	1,610.4	2.1	1,688.6	2.0
Total	64,635.0	100.0	70,170.6	100.0	76,182.7	100.0	78,255.8	100.0	84,858.1	100.0
Number of UNICs during biennium	57		58		61		61		61 c/	

a/ The appropriation amounts shown for the bienniums 1982-83 to 1988-89 represent revised appropriations approved by the General Assembly in the course of those bienniums. For 1990-91, the appropriation amount shown represents the initial appropriation approved by the General Assembly at the beginning of the biennium.

b/ Includes cost of Headquarters management and oversight costs for UNIC/UNIS operations which, since October 1987, have been carried out by the Information Centres Division. For the biennium 1990-91, budgetary allocation for the Information Centres Division charged against the Headquarters budget totalled \$2,774,300. If this amount is added to the cost of the UNICs/UNISs (\$29,578,500), the percentage of budgetary resources allocated to UNICs/UNISs would be 38.1 per cent.

c/ Excludes new UNIC in Windhoek, Namibia, to be established during 1992.